



Date: August 27, 2004
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Carl Kemp, Manager of Public/Governmental Affairs
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: City Report: Weekly Update For Week Ending August 27, 2004

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending August 27, 2004 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

West Nile Virus Update, Health and Human Services

To date, the City of Long Beach has identified six West Nile Virus (WNV) cases. There has been one fatality and the other five patients are recovering at home. Over 342 cases of WNV have been identified in the State of California with eight fatalities.

The Health Department continues to monitor and control mosquito breeding in the City and treats flood control channels and creeks in an effort to reduce mosquito populations. Additionally, the Department works in coordination with the Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District and the Compton Creek Mosquito Abatement District on identifying and treating mosquito-breeding sites to reduce the risk of WNV infection in the City.

The Department's Environmental Health Bureau has treated hundreds of miles of gutter, storm, drain and other mosquito breeding sites to control mosquito populations. Vector Control staff have been working with authorities to clear brush in flood control channels to reduce mosquito breeding areas. Recent activities have cleared areas in the Los Angeles River.

The Health Department continues to provide community education to residents and has distributed thousands of flyers and information brochures about the WNV. To date, 305 residents have received brochures as part of the door-to-door education campaign.

This year staff has made 20 presentations on the West Nile Virus to over 450 people, made six presentations to health care providers and three presentations to City Council. Staff made a presentation on the West Nile Virus to approximately 25 people in the 5th District Advisory Council this week. Several other presentations throughout the city are scheduled in the coming weeks.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Technology Services

As part of the City's long distance telephone carrier negotiations in 2003, staff obtained Verizon Communications' sponsorship of \$40,000 to fund closed captioning of City Council meetings through November 2004. In return, the City agreed to present a five-second video clip highlighting Verizon's sponsorship before each City Council meeting broadcast. It has proven to be an important service for the hearing impaired and has been added to City Council meeting streaming video on the Internet. During the recent local telephone service negotiations, Technology Services approached Verizon with the opportunity to sponsor closed captioning for another year. Verizon generously agreed again to provide \$40,000 to fund the service through November 2005.

Library Services, Main Library Bureau

The Library received a \$75,000 grant through the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) to develop and implement a plan of service for small businesses. This is considered a demonstration project with only three libraries in the state receiving such an award. The Library will partner with the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, Long Beach Business Development Center, Long Beach International Trade Office, Center for International Trade Development, Long Beach Junior Chamber (Jaycees) and the Hispanic Business Association of Greater Long Beach to implement the plan of service. The Main Library's new wireless network will be a key component of the new service to small businesses.

Community Development, Workforce Development Bureau

The Career Transition Center, in partnership with a local nonprofit, On Your Feet, hosted a two-day grant-writing workshop on August 20 and 21. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives conducted the session, and provided assistance and instruction to area nonprofits on grant writing for federal funds and initiatives.

Community Development, Redevelopment Bureau

On August 23, the Redevelopment Agency selected the consulting firm of Clarion Associates to prepare the Independent Study of Redevelopment and directed staff to begin negotiating an agreement and final scope of work.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Community Development, Redevelopment Bureau

The Redevelopment Bureau will collaborate with the Eighth District Council Office and the North Project Area Committee to clean up the Sutter Elementary School neighborhood on **Saturday, August 28**. The activity will utilize volunteers from the Community Service Worker Program.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)

Police

Nationally, impaired driving caused by drugs and/or alcohol causes one death every 33 minutes. Studies have proven that sobriety checkpoints reduce impaired driving-related accidents by removing these drivers from the streets. Studies also indicate that unlicensed drivers are responsible for a disproportionate number of traffic accidents that result in injuries or fatalities. On **Saturday, August 28**, the Police Department will conduct a DUI and Driver's License Checkpoint at Ocean Boulevard and Pacific Avenue. The operation will begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 1:00 a.m.

Community Development, Redevelopment Bureau

The Public Review Draft of the Central Strategic Guide is available for review. Copies can be obtained on the 3rd floor of City Hall or at [www. longbeach.gov](http://www.longbeach.gov). The public is encouraged to attend a public presentation on **Wednesday, September 1** at St. Mary Medical Center, 1050 Long Beach Blvd. in the Parr Center Room at 6:00 pm or at the Neighborhood Resource Center, 425 Atlantic Ave. on **Thursday, September 2** at 6:00 pm. Presentations will also be made to various neighborhood associations throughout September and October.

Fire

Twenty-eight new Firefighter recruits will begin the Fire Department's 2004A Recruit Academy on **Tuesday, September 7**. The Academy is slated to last 14 weeks with the first 3 weeks being devoted to Emergency Medical Services and the remaining weeks concentrating on Emergency Operations.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,085 emergency calls for service: 110 calls for fires, of which 18 involved structures. It also responded to 685 emergency medical calls, 484 requiring paramedics.

Long Beach Lifeguards reported that a spill of unknown origin consisting of a crude oil product was isolated by boom and secured in the area off East Beach, 72nd Place, about 60 yards toward the Belmont Pool on Thursday afternoon. US Coast Guard units responded and took over command and clean up operations. The spill was completely cleaned up by Friday afternoon. No lasting environmental effects were reported.

Firefighters utilized the Jaws of Life to extricate an occupant from a vehicle in an accident that occurred on the I-710 Willow Street exit.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)

Police

Drivers who fail to appear in court on their DUI arrest are issued a warrant for their arrest. The Traffic Section conducted a citywide DUI warrant operation, serving 58 warrants and making four arrests.

On August 25, the Police Department Traffic and DUI team conducted a suspended/revoked driver's license court sting. Of the 21 cases heard in court, three violators, who were ordered not to drive by the judge, chose to get into their vehicle and drive. These individuals were arrested and their vehicles were impounded.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Community Development, Workforce Development Bureau

Staff conducted outreach activities for various Youth Opportunity Center and Career Transition Center services at the "Back to School Jam" at Carmelitos Housing Community, Lutheran Social Services Center and all of the city's middle and high schools.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

Marine Maintenance has installed a new fence at the 4th Street and Park Avenue pedestrian entrance to the Pacific Electric right-of-way. "No Parking" and "No Vehicle" signs were also installed at various locations along the right-of-way.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

The renovations to the California Recreation Center Gymnasium have been completed. The improvements included a new wooden floor, new lighting, a new scoreboard, new adjustable backboards, and repainting. Approximately 75 people attended the grand reopening ceremony on August 21.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

Plans for the Rotary Centennial Park have been completed and submitted to Planning and Building for compliance with construction codes and site plan review conditions. Completion is scheduled for February 2005.

At Whaley Park, the pre-construction meeting with the contractor was held for the next two phases of the accessibility improvements. These phases include improvements inside the community center and improvements to the playground areas.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development, Workforce Development Bureau

The 235 young persons participating in the Youth Opportunity Center's Summer Jobs Program will complete their activities over the next two weeks. Comprised of work experience, academic work in math and reading and employment preparation workshops, the Program placed youth at government and nonprofit work sites throughout the community.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (continued)

The Career Transition Center (CTC) conducted employee recruitments for Gladstone's 4 Fish and for the Hawaiian Gardens Casino, totaling more than 200 positions in several occupations.

Community Development, Economic Development Bureau

Economic Development Bureau participated in the 9th Annual California Black Chamber of Commerce Statewide Convention on August 18-20. Bureau Staff and a representative from the Disadvantaged Community Assistance Division provided information on business development programs and services.

Economic Development Bureau staff participated in the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce Breakfast meeting on August 25. The Bureau's manager was the featured speaker and provided an overview on the programs and services offered at the City's Business Development Center. Staff was also on hand to disseminate materials and answer questions.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

A summer concert was held at Rancho Los Cerritos on August 26, with approximately 300 in attendance. The free concert, underwritten by Friends of Rancho Los Cerritos, featured solo guitarist Thomas Betke performing classical and Spanish tunes.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

On Friday, August 20, the 2004 Summer Food Service Program for Children ended its twenty-fifth successful year, serving lunches to children 18 years of age or younger at thirty-four park and nonprofit sites throughout the cities of Long Beach and Signal Hill. Approximately 86,000 lunches have been served--an increase of over 3,000 compared to last year.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

The Grand Cru Wine Tasting event, with an estimated attendance of 1,000, was held on August 21 at Queen Mary Events Park.

CBS Productions, with a cast and crew of 100, filmed "CSI Miami" on August 24 at Shoreline Dr. and the Aquarium parking lot.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 2,958 service calls. This total included 891 Gas and Water Utility Turn-On orders and 932 Turn-Off orders. There were 858 Customer Service Orders for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 277 meter-maintenance and billing related orders were completed.

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OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE (continued)

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

Of the total number of service calls received, 96 customer emergency orders were completed.

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